



## **N.C. Tomato Growers Association**

### **41st Annual Meeting and “Winter Vegetable Conference and Trade Show”**

**To:** Exhibitors, Sponsors & Associate Members  
**From:** Melinda James, President, NCTGA  
**Date:** November 12, 2008

You are invited to attend, exhibit and be a sponsor at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Tomato Growers Association (NCTGA) and the “Winter Vegetable Conference and Trade Show” at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville, North Carolina on ***Wednesday and Thursday, February 18th & 19th, 2009.***

The Association is asking for your support in several different ways. We are offering the associate membership for \$175.00 per year. This fee entitles your company to two representative registrations for the conference and one 6'x6' exhibit space at the conference trade show. A six-foot table, draped with a tablecloth, will be available for your indoor display. In addition, an area outside, but near the exhibit area, will be available for larger equipment. Exhibitors may begin setting up displays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17th and 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18th. Set-up should be complete by 9:00 a.m. The exhibit hall opens on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. and registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

We also extend an invitation to you to become a silent auction contributor for 2009. NCTGA supports future generations of farmers with an endowment fund used to offer merit/need-based scholarships to North Carolina residents pursuing a horticulture or agri-business undergraduate or graduate degree. Last year's contributions allowed us to award \$1000 scholarships to 2 deserving students in 2008.

Finally, we are offering opportunities for companies to partner with us as sponsors to offer the best conference for our area producers and professionals. Information and deadlines concerning all of these opportunities is enclosed.

In cooperation with N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, N.C. State University and the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, we are planning a great educational program that will start on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. and conclude with a social starting at 5:00 p.m. Thursday's program will begin at 9:00 a.m., highlighting some of the N.C. State University research programs funded by the N.C. Tomato Growers Association referendum. Starting at 12:30 p.m. our annual luncheon, awards presentations and silent auction will finish up the conference.

We would like to encourage everyone to stay at the Crowne Plaza Resort. Room rate is \$69 per night plus applicable taxes. The Association has reserved a block of rooms and these rooms are valid through January 27, 2009 so please make your reservations directly with the Crowne Plaza Resort at 1-800-733-3211 or (828) 254-3211.

If you have any questions, please call Melinda James at (828) 526-3989 or Ellen Sprague at (828) 685-3989. Deadline for sponsorship and exhibitor registration, if you want to be in the conference brochure, is **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**